

His grandfather has dedicated his life to a continuing effort to get the word out, get the message out that this type of cancer does claim the lives of young people. We can do more here in the Congress of the United States of America to help fight cancer in general and this specific type of cancer that is known to few. It is my hope that we will continue to allocate resources to fighting cancer such that this type of cancer can move to the front burner.

We've got to do more to prevent, to educate, and to make sure that cancer becomes a disease of the past in our lifetimes. It is my hope that Byron Nash's life would become the genesis for us to do more to fight not only cancer in general but for this specific type of cancer known as renal medullary carcinoma.

I will leave these words with all of those who are within the sound of my voice here and those who may be viewing at home, and especially to his family: I want you to know that we will do all that we can to make sure that he not only lived a decent life—as he did, and that is as recognized—but also that we will do all that we can to fight this dreadful disease and bring it to an end.

HONORING SERGEANT JOHN BAKER, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHILLING) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHILLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the distinguished life of Sergeant John Baker, Jr.

Born in Davenport, Iowa, but raised within the 17th District of Illinois, in Moline, Sergeant Baker served in Vietnam as a proud member of the United States Army. His selflessness and heroism earned him the Medal of Honor, Silver Star, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart as he bravely fought for God and country. Sergeant Baker would humbly say that this Medal of Honor was not actually for him, that he had done what anyone would have, that the medal belonged to all servicemen, to all veterans.

Though he surely never would have said so himself, Sergeant Baker—the Quad Cities only Medal of Honor recipient—represented all that is good about our great Nation. Although he is no longer with us, the I-280 bridge named after John Baker, Vietnam veteran, and the monument will also serve as a constant reminder of who Sergeant Baker was and what he did for us all.

Godspeed, Sergeant Baker. God bless you for your outstanding service, your remarkable courage, and your modest heroism.

WISHING SENATOR MARK KIRK WELL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, tonight, when we listen to the President give

his State of the Union speech, one of our colleagues, unfortunately, will not be here, and that is Senator MARK KIRK, who served in this body as a Member of Congress for many years and, before that, was a staffer on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

MARK, Senator KIRK, as we all know, is fighting against a terrible stroke that he had just yesterday. I want him and his family to know that all of our thoughts and prayers are with him as he battles this stroke, and hopefully he will make a full recovery.

I just was devastated when I heard about it because anyone who knows MARK knows what a terrific Senator he is, what a great colleague he is, someone who has always reached across the aisle in a bipartisan way and someone that I have just tremendous respect for. When he was sworn in as a Senator, I was very pleased that he invited me to stand with him on the Senate floor when he was sworn in.

So, again, I just want MARK and his family and friends, of which I am one, to know that our thoughts and prayers are with him as he battles this stroke. We have confidence that he is in good hands with the doctors and will make a full recovery.

MARK, again, is the kind of person who epitomizes what bipartisanship is all about, what Americanism is all about. MARK was a cochair, when he was in this body, of the Albanian Issues Caucus with me, has been a strong supporter of the State of Israel, and we've worked together on a number of these issues.

So, MARK, we're with you. We're going to be watching, and we have confidence that you will recover fully and come back to this body. America needs you, and we're thinking of you.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 36 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Kate Braestrup, Maine Warden Service, Lincolnville, Maine, offered the following prayer:

St. Francis of Assisi advises us to pray constantly. If necessary, he says, use words.

God, our prayer today arises from a house of words, from a Nation rooted in words. We do not derive our identity as Americans from our color or our creed, from our wealth or power, nor even

from the land itself, though we do love the land.

Rather, by Your grace, America is America through its words: That all men are created equal, that all are endowed with inalienable rights—life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness—these beautiful, necessary words.

God, may every word spoken and written from this Chamber contain an echo of those words. May our words, too, be necessary and true. May our words remember and inspire the brave, compassionate action that is and always has been America's finest prayer.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. HAYWORTH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. HAYWORTH led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3237. An act to amend the SOAR Act by clarifying the scope of coverage of the Act.

The message also announced that the Senate has agreed to without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 96. Concurrent resolution providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1134. An act to authorize the St. Croix River Crossing Project with appropriate mitigation measures to promote river values.

The message also announced that pursuant to the unanimous consent agreement of December 17, 2011, by the President pro tempore and the Majority Leader during the adjournment of the Senate and pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 106-398, as amended by Public Law 108-7, upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, and in consultation with the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, the Chair on behalf of the